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Before joining AEI, Ms. Pletka was a longtime senior professional staff member for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, where she specialized in the Near East and South Asia as the point person on Middle East, Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan.

Ms. Pletka has authored, coauthored, and coedited a variety of studies, monographs, and book chapters, including the report "[Tehran Stands Atop the Syria-Iran Alliance](#)" (Atlantic Council, 2017); the chapter "America in Decline" in "[Debating the Obama Presidency](#)" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016); "[America vs. Iran: The Competition for the Future of the Middle East](#)" (AEI, 2014); "[Iranian Influence in the Levant, Egypt, Iraq, and Afghanistan](#)" (AEI, 2012); "[Containing and Deterring a Nuclear Iran](#)" (AEI, 2011); and "Dissent and Reform in the Arab World: Empowering Democrats" (AEI, 2008).

A regular guest on television, Ms. Pletka appears frequently on NBC News' "Meet the Press." Her broadcast appearances also include CBS News, CNN, C-SPAN, and MSNBC. She has been published in The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Hill, and Politico, among other outlets.

She has an M.A. from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. from Smith College.